

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
OFFICE OF FISCAL AND MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS**

301 State House  
(317) 232-9855

**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6035**

**BILL NUMBER: HB 1972**

**DATE PREPARED:** Feb 27, 2001

**BILL AMENDED:** Feb 26, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Recovery for False Imprisonment.

**FISCAL ANALYST:** Mark Goodpaster

**PHONE NUMBER:** 232-9852

**FUNDS AFFECTED: X GENERAL  
DEDICATED  
FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** (Amended) This bill entitles a plaintiff who prevails in an action for false imprisonment to recover the salary or other earnings that the plaintiff presumably would have earned during the period of imprisonment if the plaintiff had not been imprisoned, along with attorney's fees. It also enumerates factors for the court to consider in determining the appropriate amount recoverable with respect to the plaintiff's salary or other earnings during the period of imprisonment.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2001.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Under current law, plaintiffs who are successful in a tort claim for false imprisonment would be able to recover lost wages but are not permitted to recover attorney's fees. As proposed, these plaintiffs would automatically be entitled to recover attorney's fees and damages in the form of lost wages during the period of wrongful imprisonment. The cost to the State depends upon attorneys fees awarded and lost wages the plaintiff would have earned. The Office of the Attorney General defends state entities in legal actions and more legal time will be required if filings for this particular action increase.

Currently, actions for false imprisonment are rarely brought against the State. False imprisonment actions in which the plaintiff prevails are even more unusual. Unless the number of successful false imprisonment actions significantly increases, and the recovery amount for attorneys fees and lost wages is large, the fiscal impact to the State should be minimal.

**Explanation of State Revenues:**

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** See Explanation of State Expenditures, above. Counties and municipalities generally have liability insurance in the event of a successful tort claim against the entity.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Office of the Attorney General.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts.

**Information Sources:** Howard Stevenson, Office of the Attorney General; Larry Landis, Public Defender Commission.